

JUNIOR CONFERENCE

Navigating Your Plans After High School

The Hopatcong High School Guidance Office:

Mrs. Manisa (A-Ara, Re-Z)

Ms. Stein (Arn - Cab, L - Ra)

Mr. Valentine (Cal-K)

Which Pathway is the Best for You?

- ❖ Trade/Technical School
- ❖ Military
- ❖ Two Year College
- ❖ Four Year College
- ❖ Employment
 - Plan in advance!

Admissions Timeline

Spring of Junior Year

- Register for SAT/ACT (if applicable)
- Research and make a list of schools

Summer-Attend open houses and schedule campus visits

Fall of Senior Year

- Ask 2 teachers and a counselor for recommendation.
- Organize a list of safe, target and reach schools with deadlines
- Write college essay- [Essay Prompts](#)
- Submit college applications through common application (if applicable)
- File your FAFSA

Winter/Spring of Senior Year

- Research and apply for scholarships
- Decide which school you will be attending by May 1st

FINANCIAL AID & SCHOLARSHIPS

- ❖ Check sites to apply for financial aid & scholarships:
 - [FAFSA](#)- complete as soon as possible your Senior Year (graduation requirement)
 - [CSS Profile](#)- this is a supplement to the FAFSA some colleges use
 - [HESAA](#)
 - [HHS Scholarships](#)
 - [Fastweb](#)
 - [RaiseMe](#)
- ❖ The HHS Guidance Department will be distributing scholarships for local organizations in the Spring of your senior year
- ❖ All colleges have a Net Price Calculator to estimate cost of attendance
- ❖ Financial Aid Night & FAFSA Completion Night

Military

- ❖ See Ms. Stein in the HHS Guidance Office to explore different branches of the military
- ❖ Meet with a military recruiter
- ❖ Take The Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery (ASVAB) test
- ❖ Practice:
 - [ASVAB Career Exploration Program](#)

Trade/Technical School

❖ Examples of trade careers:

- Electrician
- HVAC
- Automotive
- Welding
- Carpentry

❖ Visit school campus(es) of interest- [Lincoln Tech](#), [SCCC](#), [Morris Vo-Tech](#), [Eastwick](#), [Universal Technical Institute](#)

Community College

- ❖ Talk to your school counselor if you qualify for the NJ Stars Program (top 15%)
- ❖ Complete the SCCC [free online application](#) or the CCM [online application](#)
 - Students do not need to apply if already completed or are currently earning college credit for a concurrent course through SCCC
- ❖ CCM's cost per credit will likely be higher than SCCC cost per credit
- ❖ The Chargeback Program: your major can qualify, if it is not offered at SCCC
- ❖ A member from SCCC and CCM will be coming to our school for an Instant Decision Day in Fall of Senior Year

Preparing for Applying to College

- ❖ Create a SCOIR & Common App Account- you will do this with your counselor during your junior meeting
- ❖ Conduct a College Search ([Collegeboard](#), [Niche](#))
- ❖ Visit each homepage of the specific colleges from your college search
 - Research academics, tuition costs, activities and campus life
- ❖ Register for a college tour and other upcoming on-campus events
- ❖ By early fall you should have prepared the following list with their application deadlines:
 - 1-2 safe schools
 - 2-3 target schools
 - 1-2 reach schools

LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION

- ❖ Teacher and Guidance recommendation letters are required for some college applications and scholarships
- ❖ Plan to ask at least 2 teachers (at least 1 academic) and your counselor
 - Make sure you ask in person first!
 - Complete and submit the [2026-2027 Senior Profile & Activities Form](#) for counselor and teacher recommendation
- ❖ Provide at least **TWO WEEKS** notice when requesting letters of recommendation

APPLICATION DEADLINES

- ❖ **Check the school's deadline for accepting applications:**
 - **Early Action (EA):**
 - Application is due at an earlier date than regular decision (such as October or November)
 - **Early Decision (ED):**
 - This is a binding contract to one school. If accepted, students must withdraw all other applications
 - **Regular Decision:**
 - Application is due at a later date (such as January or February)
 - **Rolling Admissions:**
 - The Admissions committee will review the application upon receipt

SAT & ACT TESTS

- ❖ Register to take the [SAT](#) or [ACT](#) (check testing dates)
- ❖ Practice:
 - [Khan Academy](#)
 - [Kaplan Test Prep](#)
 - [ACT Study Guide](#)
- ❖ Students who receive free or reduced lunch may be eligible for a fee waiver → contact school counselor for more information
- ❖ Some schools are SAT/ACT optional → review college application requirements

National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA)

- ❖ Students should register with the [NCAA Clearinghouse](#) if they plan to play a sport for a college that is Division I or Division II
- ❖ Let your school counselor know that you registered
- ❖ Review the academic requirements for Division I and II schools with your school counselor

Transcript

- ❖ **The transcript is your high school academic record**
 - Final grades from each year are used to calculate your **GRADE POINT AVERAGE (GPA)** and your **CLASS RANK**
 - 6th semester (end of junior year) GPA and class rank are what colleges will receive when you apply your senior year
 - Your school counselor will send your transcript & letters of recommendation to colleges **AFTER** you have submitted your application
- ❖ **Senior year grades and coursework are still considered and very important...
no senioritis!**
- ❖ **Share school requests with your counselor such as:**
 - Mid-year grades
 - Alerts that a document is missing

QUESTIONS?

- ❖ Contact your school counselor with any questions:
 - Mrs. Manisa: dmanisa@hopatcongschools.org; 973-770-8864
 - Ms. Stein: mstein@hopatcongschools.org; 973-770-8863
 - Mr. Valentine: jvalentine@hopatcongschools.org; 973-770-8865